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The Bombay Chronicle

Founder: Pherozeshah Mehta — Editor: Syed Abdullah Brelvi

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Japs Worsted In Raid On Chittagong Airfield

R.A.F. Takes Big Toll Of Enemy Planes: Small Number Of People Killed

NEW DELHI, May 23.

Yesterday morning R. A. F. "Hurricanes" destroyed or damaged nearly half of a force of 20 Japanese bombers, escorted by 11 fighters, which attacked Chittagong airfield, says an India command joint war 'communique'.

AIR COMBAT OVER WIDE AREA

The combat took place over a wide area and full details have not yet been received but it is known that four Japanese bombers and three fighters were destroyed, one bomber and one fighter probably destroyed, and four bombers and two fighters damaged.

Our losses were two fighters. One pilot has already reported back to his unit and the other is believed to be safe.

The attack was made from a high level and the bombs that were dropped caused no serious damage. Some casualties have been reported including a small number of people killed.

On offensive operations yesterday R.A.F. fighter patrols machine-gunned nine locomotives. Japanese troops and other objectives in the Katha district; damaged a launch on the Chindwin River and made low level attacks on enemy positions north-west of Buthidaung. From these operations all our aircraft returned safely.

On the Arakan front active patrolling continues.

WINGATE MEETS PRESSMEN

Press correspondents here have just had an opportunity of viewing the three-months Burma expedition from the unusual personal angle of its leader Brigadier Wingate.

Describing it as a "demonstration" of new methods rather than as an experiment, he said it had proved that the ordinary Indian and British soldier with necessary training and leadership could beat the Japanese in jungle warfare in spite of the long start that the Japanese had.

TRIBUTE TO KATJU

Paying a tribute to Capt. Katju, Brigadier Wingate said: "He went with me throughout. He was always cheerful, observing and taking notes. It is a great grief to me that he is not back with us. He met his death honourably carrying out the orders of his superior officer."—A. P.

JAP RAID ON FENI AREA FRUSTRATED

CALCUTTA: Typical of some of the fine interceptions carried out by R.A.F. fighters on the Burma front was the frustration of an attempted raid by Japanese bombers upon the Feni area. About two dozen enemy bombers, with a fighter escort came in to attack. The Japanese used their heaviest type of bomber—used for the first time in daylight on the Burma front. They are a modified version of the aircraft which suffered disaster when they attacked Calcutta at the beginning of this year.

The Japanese fighter escort did its best to beat off the Churchill Boys, but in vain. In a few minutes' hectic fighting, the damage was done. Three bombers were seen to crash to earth. Two more were claimed as probables, another seven were badly damaged, and also one of the escorting army Os. How many of these were able to get back to their base is problematic.

Six Jap Launches Destroyed

CALCUTTA May 22

Six new Japanese power-launches were recently cruising off Ramree island, Bay of Bengal. They were spotted by four cannon-firing "Hurricanes" on patrol. Ten minutes later, all six rivercraft were wiped out.—A. P.

Jap Headquarters At Ichang Bombed

CHUNGKING, May 22.

A Chinese 'communique' on Friday stated that a strong force of Chinese bombers in the afternoon bombed from low level Japanese headquarter's defences depot at Ichang on the Yangtse River starting fires.—Reuter.

The Japanese are seizing yearly about two and a half million tons of rice from China, Indo-China and Siam. They are also draining China of 1,700,000 tons of salt, four million tons of coal, six million tons of iron, and large quantities of rubber, oil, tin and wolfram said the Director of the Information Department at the Chinese Foreign office Mr. Shao Nlin in an interview—Reuter.

WHEN CHUNGKING TREATY CAME INTO OPERATION

NEW DELHI, May 22.

The treaty between the United Kingdom, India and China, signed in Chungking on January 11, 1943, says a press note under which extra territorial rights in China were relinquished, came into active operation at 12 noon on Thursday, May 20, 1943, when the instruments of ratification were formally exchanged.—A. P.

Growth Of Communist Party In India

Plan For Communal Unity & National Freedom

On the occasion of the first Congress of the Indian Communist Party the Red Flag with the Hammer and the Sickle, was unfurled by Mr. Bankim Mukerjee in the presence of nearly 25,000 city workers gathered on the Kamgar Maidan on Sunday evening.

In every nook and corner of the vast Maidan were boards and placards hitting the spectators' eye with the slogan: "Bolshevism is the best form of Patriotism."

FROM 150 TO 16,000

"From a small body of 150 members, we have grown into an influential organisation of nearly 16,000 members. It is because our policy has always been correct. Just when the war started, we organised a general strike and thereby gave a lead to the people. In August 1942, however, we spoke against sabotage and asked for a National Government on the basis of unity. Several workers wavered and thought we were wrong; but now we have been proved correct."

Thus said, Mr. S. A. Dange, the well-known Communist leader, speaking at the first All-India Convention of the Communist Party, held at the Kamgar Maidan, on Sunday evening.

About 25,000 people were present on the occasion, of whom about 135 were delegates from all over India. Among the visitors seated on the platform were Mr. S. A. Brelvi, Mr. V. L. Mehta, Senapati Bapat, Dr. Shaukat Ullah and Mrs. Ansari. Among the Communist leaders on the platform were Messrs. Bankim Mukherjee, Somnath Lahiri, Baba Sohan Singh Bakhna, Muzzafar Ahmed, Dr. Adhikari, P. C. Joshi, Bhayya Kulkarni, Krishna Pillai, S. S. Mirajkar, B. T. Ranadive, Z. A. Ahmed and Sajjad Laher. A 70-year-old textile worker by name Sunderabai who is said to be the oldest woman worker in the cause of Communism was also present, "lest she should not have another chance to see a gathering of the type. Messages of greetings were received from the Communist Parties of Great Britain and of S. Africa and others.

Prominently displayed on the platform were portraits of Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. P. C. Joshi, the Secretary of the Communist Party. Posters with the following slogans were to be seen everywhere:—"Every militant into the Party." "Patriots help the kisan to grow more food" "Student patriots get Gandhiji out!", All together win release of leaders", Stop sabotage and fight the Fifth Column", etc.

Cameramen of the Information Films of India (formerly the F. A. B.) were busy photographing the audience from various angles.

RED FLAG UNFURLED

Unfurling the Red flag, Mr. Bankim Mukherjee, President of the All-India Kisan Sabha, said that it was the Bombay textile workers who had given birth to Communism in India. The Red flag was drenched in the blood of several martyrs who had laid down their lives for the cause of Communism—men like those of Kayyur and Parsharam Jadhav, Papamiya and Babu Marathe of Bombay. He said the object of the Communist Party was to secure the defence of the country against Japanese aggression and to secure the freedom of India through unity between Congress and the League. He appealed for increase in the membership of the Party so that it might become enough to bring about the release of Congress leaders and the freedom of the country.

Continuing he condemned the activities of Fifth Columnists in this country, and said that, in spite of the fact that Indians had been emasculated, they could still resist the Japanese if only they united.

Mr. S. A. Dange, in the course of his presidential address, reviewed the history of the Communist Party since it started 15 years back. He said that the best revolutionary elements of the country like the associates of Bhagat Singh and the adherents of the Ghadr Party, started by Baba Sohan Singh Bakhna, were now in the Party.

He stated that the Party had grown so influential that it now controlled about 2 lakhs of workers, 3 lakhs of kisans, 50,000 women workers, 35,000 Red Guards and thousands of students.

Referring to the future, he said that the Communist Party would chalk out a programme to secure the release of Congress leaders, achieve Hindu-Muslim unity and strengthen the national defence, with a view to achieving a national government, which would ultimately bring freedom.

A WOMAN WORKER'S ADVICE

A woman worker of the Bombay mills, Droupadi Bai, speaking on the occasion said that they were not only keen on firmly establishing the Communist Party, but also on achieving complete freedom for the country through Hindu-Muslim unity.

COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERS

To-day's Festival Of National Cultures

In connection with the First Congress of the Communist Party of India, which is being held in the city, a Festival of national cultures will take place to-day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Damodar Thackersy Hall, Parel. Cultural squads from Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Andhra, etc. will put up a variety programme of folk-songs, folk-dances and short playlets, which has become the rage in their respective provinces. Admission is by special passes issued by the Bombay Committee.

The Exhibition which is being held along with the Congress will be open to the public also to-day from 5 p.m. opposite the Damodar Hall, Parel. The growth and work of the Communists on all the different fronts,—working-class, Kisan, women, etc.—is vividly portrayed on artistically arranged charts, illumined by actual photographs taken on the spot where the incidents occurred! Diagrams and statistics will give a detailed idea as to the position occupied by the Communists in the life of the nation.

P. C. JOSHI SAYS DITTO

Views On Commintern's Latest

BOMBAY, May 23.

Full support to the proposal of the Executive Committee of the Communist International which files the Communist Parties in the different countries from the obligations arising from the statutes and decisions of the various Congresses of the Communist International, is given by the Communist Party of India according to a statement issued through the United Press by Mr. P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Party.

Mr. Joshi says: "This proposal is a powerful blow against all reactionary elements who are using the existence of the world communist centre in Moscow as an excuse for their machinations against the Soviet Union and to prevent the closest co-operation between the United Nations, especially between Britain, America and the U. S. S. R., at this critical and decisive moment in the war against the fascist Axis. The E. C. C. I. has issued a clarion call to all Communist Parties to concentrate all their efforts to unite the working class and the people in their respective countries for the supreme task of striking together against fascist imperialists in the final battles which are due to open now after the clearing of North Africa. Burning patriotism, self-sacrificing effort for the mobilisation of the people for the holy war of liberation of the peoples from the menace of fascism—this is the acid test of international communism to-day. By knocking the bottom of the prejudices against the Comintern, the proposal will make the broadest national unity possible in each country and pave the way for the closest joint action between the members of the United Nations in dealing the final death blow against fascist imperialism, for the freedom of all the peoples of the world—and lay the basis for the victory of World Socialism on a vaster plane than ever before."—United Press.

TOWARDS 'LABOUR INTERNATIONAL'

LONDON, May 22.

Professor Harold J. Laski, member of the Executive of the British Labour Party and prominent Socialist scholar, author and lecturer told Reuter's special correspondent "the dissolution of the Communist International by Moscow is one of the most hopeful events in the political development since 1918. It is urgent now that we should seek to rebuild a single and all embracing Labour International, and that discussions to this end should be initiated before hostilities cease. The present arrangements between the British Labour Party and representatives of Foreign Socialist parties in Britain are not satisfactory. I think that we should begin to study the ways and means of bringing into being a body capable of at least formulating issues which the International Socialist movement will confront at the end of the war".

"Mere Puppets"

BLACKPOOL: Prominent Trade Union and Labour leaders who are here attending conferences and meetings expressed the view tonight that the decision announced from Moscow to disband the Communist International would have very little effect on the decision of the Labour Party Conference at Whitsun over the application of the Communist Party of Great Britain for affiliation.

An ex-Chairman of the Trade Union Council said: "The mere fact that the Communist International has been disbanded without consulting Communist parties in various parts of the world proves once again that they are mere puppets. We still do not trust the Communist party of Great Britain, and if they gained access to the British Labour party the policy might still be changed again later".—Reuter

"PROGRESS IN RIGHT DIRECTION"

WASHINGTON, May 23.

The British Ambassador Lord Halifax conferred with the Secretary of State Mr. Hull and possibly discussed the disbandment of the Commintern. Members of Congress generally expressed pleasure at Moscow action.

Representative Jonkman of Michigan, Republican member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, declared: "It shows progress in the right direction".

MOSCOW 'GESTURE' TO AMERICA

WASHINGTON: The White House and the State Department made no comment on the disbandment of the Comintern, but informed quarters welcomed it as a gesture of good faith and friendliness, directed particularly towards the United States. The move is viewed as an augury to closer inter-allied co-operation. American suspicions of the Comintern's post-war policy—doubts about that—have always tempered among a large majority of Americans their admiration for Russia's military achievements. Moscow's action is also regarded as a step towards conciliation of the Nazi-ruled peoples of Europe in anticipation of increased Soviet military activity there.

NEW YORK: Commenting on the dissolution of the Comintern "The New York Times" says: "It gives added point to the new invitation issued by Mr. Churchill to M. Stalin to meet him and President Roosevelt in conference to unify both the strategy and purposes of the United Nations."

OPENS WAY TO NEW APPROACH

LONDON: The dissolution of the Comintern is hailed by "London's Sunday" newspapers as a striking gesture by the Russian ally and a great brlow to German propagandists by killing the Bolshevist bogey.

"The Sunday Dispatch" says Marshal Stalin's move brings the Allies "still further together," while the "Sunday Times" comments that the Germans "depended upon the Comintern for so many years as the strongest argument for Europe at once dominated and protected by German might.

"The Observer" says that Marshal Stalin's action "may open the way for a new approach to various European problems."

Sicily Air-fields Attacked

Hangars And Buildings Fired

LONDON, May 23.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa: The text of to-day's 'communique' states: "During the night of May 21-22 "Wellington" bombers of the strategic Air Force made attacks on air-fields in Sicily. Fires were started in hangars and buildings. Yesterday "Flying Fortresses" escorted by "P 38 Lightnings" attacked Borizzo airfield in Sicily. Bombs were seen to burst all over the airfield and fires were started. Enemy fighters attacked our bombers and in the ensuing combats seven enemy planes were destroyed. A "Marauder" of the Coastal Air Force shot down a "Messerschmitt 323" transport plane during the day.

From all these operations four of our aircraft are missing.

Naval activity continues in the Tunisian waters. Yesterday morning one of our vessels intercepted a sailing boat off Cape Bon, and took eight German prisoners escaping from Sidi Daoud on the west side of the Peninsula.

During the past fortnight some 900 Germans and Italians, mostly escaping in small craft, have been captured by the Navy. Our minesweepers are still busily engaged in the dangerous work of clearing channels through the enemy's minefields."

MESSINA BOMBED

CAIRO:—To-day's Middle East Air communique states: "During daylight on May 21, R.A.F. long-range fighters on an offensive sweep in the Agean Sea destroyed a German seaplane and severely damaged an enemy sailing vessel. This ship was left drifting on rocks discharging oil.

On the night of May 21-22 R.A.F. medium bombers attacked Messina. Direct hits were scored on ferry control buildings, on a railway station and amongst railway yards. Fires were started among oil tanks and near a power station. Objectives in Southern Italy were also bombed.

From those and other operations one of our aircraft is missing."—Reuter.

WIRELESS STATION & CAMP FIRED

VALETTA: Raids on Sicily are reported in Sunday's Malta communique which states: On Saturday the R.A.F. attacked Gela Ponte Olivo in Southern Sicily. Last night the R.A.F. attacked the wireless station and camp at M. Lilli in Eastern Sicily, starting a fire visible 50 miles away. Strikes were also seen on a factory at Pozzallo in southern Sicily.

At Sancstaldo in Central Sicily a large building was hit, exploding in flames. Trains also were attacked during the night.—Reuter.

JAPS' UNSUCCESSFUL RAID ON SHIPS OFF ATTU

WASHINGTON:—An unsuccessful attack by Japanese bombers on two United States naval vessels off Attu, in the western tip of the Aleutians, is reported in Sunday night's navy 'communique.'—Reuter.

Vijaya Laxmi & Indira Reject Internment Terms

Two Pandit Girls Sail For America At Last

ALLAHABAD, May 23.

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and Mrs. Indira Gandhi (daughter of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru) have informed the authorities expressing their inability to comply with the terms of the order served on them on May 13 after their release from the Naini Central Jail.

INTERNMENT TERMS

It may be recalled that an order was served on them at the Jail gate directing them to proceed to their Khali estate in Almora district and reside there and subject themselves to check of their presence there by the Deputy Commissioner of Almora.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi as at present suffering from an attack of influenza.

Daughters Sail

MISS CHANDRA LEKHA AND MISS TARA, DAUGHTERS OF MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT, HAVE SAILED FOR AMERICA TO PROSECUTE THEIR STUDIES, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE.

SURAT CONVICTIONS

SURAT: Mr. B. D. Mirchandani, Special Judge, delivered judgment in the case in which five persons stood charged with having been in possession of explosives and prejudicial literature and materials for the preparation of unauthorised literature. The Judge sentenced Jayantilal K. Parikh to four years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs 50 fine or in default to undergo four months' further imprisonment under the Explosive Substances Act. Mr. Manibhai Lalbhai has been acquitted. Three other persons involved in the case, namely, Bhulabhai Bhaktibhai, Naranbhai Rambhai and Jagdish Dadhabhai are stated to be absconding.

MIRAJ: The Model English School building at Hosur in Shahapur Taluka is reported to have been set on fire. Two persons were injured, one seriously.

OUTLAW GANG ARRESTED

KARACHI: About 25 notorious characters wanted in connection with certain cases of dacoities, cattle lifting, etc., have been arrested by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Shikarpur. The batch includes Khar Kabir, a proclaimed outlaw and his wife.

SIX DETENUS RELEASED

CAWNPORE: Six security prisoners including Ramchandra Musaddi and Ramgopal Sharma, Secretary Nayaganj Ward Congress Committee released from the Central Prison, Bareilly, have arrived at Cawnpore.

MADRAS: Mr. P. M. Adikesavalu Naicker, a member of the City Council, who was detained in Vellore Jail under D. I. R., has been released on medical grounds.

NELLORE: D. Subbareddi and 11 others who were charged under D.I.R. with having committed prejudicial acts and setting fire to a police station in July last, were sentenced to four years R. I. each. They were also sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 550 each in default further six months' R. I.—A. P.

EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCES STAYED

PATNA, May 22.

The execution of sentences of death recently passed on a number of accused persons in the case arising out of the alleged murder of two R. A. F. pilots at Futwah at the hands of mob during the August disturbances has been stayed under the orders of the local government, it is learnt.

The sentences were passed under the Special Criminal Courts Ordinance and Government's decision to stay the execution is stated to be a sequel to the decision of the Calcutta High Court recently declaring certain sections of the above Ordinance 'ultra vires' and the appeal against the decision now pending before the Federal Court.—A. P.

Narhari Parikh Arrested

AHMEDABAD: The police raided the Harijan Ashram at Sabarmati on Sunday, and searched the room of Mr. Narhari Parikh, the manager of the Ashram, and seized prejudicial literature and arrested Mr. Parikh, under Defence of India Rules. Mr. Parikh was recently released from jail where he is detained.—A. P.

18 MONTHS FOR ASSAULT ON A.D.M.

DACCA: A sentence of 18 months' rigorous imprisonment has been awarded in the additional District Magistrate assault case to accused Tajumuddin on a charge of rioting and assaulting public servants. Three others were acquitted. The case was heard by the Sub-Divisional Officer, North Sadar, originally the charge sheet was submitted against 103 persons, of them 97 were discharged before, and one after trial. One died.

The prosecution alleged that during communal disturbance in rural areas in April 1941, Mr. S. B. Hatchbranwell I.C.S., Additional District Magistrate, found a large number of armed Muslims looting and burning certain houses in Rahimbad. Mr. Hatchbranwell fired revolver shots but the crowd assaulted him and snatched away his revolver. He fell down unconscious. Subsequently he was brought to Dacca treated at the Mitford Hospital for several days for multiple injuries.—

GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACKS REPELLED

LONDON, May 23.

(Morning despatch from Reuter's special correspondent in Moscow):—

The Germans failed in their big counter-attack against the Soviet bridgehead at Lisichansk on the middle Donetz on Saturday afternoon. The "Red Star" reports that the Germans trying to regain the positions that had been lost, during the morning and the previous day, heavily dive-bombed and shelled the Soviet line, but made no advance and lost a considerable number of planes. Towards the evening the Germans renewed their attack advancing a short distance under cover of strong shelling. Soviet infantry however eventually forced the Germans back. After furious fighting they withdrew to their fortified positions. Many smashed German mortars were left on the battlefield.

BLOCKHOUSES SMASHED

MOSCOW: A night attack on German trenches in one sector of the western front is reported in the supplement to Sunday morning's Soviet communique. Soviet scouts penetrated German minefields, cut through barbed wire entanglements and having killed 200 Germans and destroyed 14 machine-guns and two anti-tank guns returned to their positions. On the Kalinin front Soviet gunners shelled German positions smashing three blockhouses. In Lisichansk area the Russians repelled a German attempt to recover the lost positions. About a company of Germans was wiped out.

On the Leningrad front two companies of German infantry attempted to attack Russian positions, but were dispersed by artillery and mortar fire.

ENEMY BATTALION WIPED OUT

The supplement to the Sunday night communique stated: On the Central Front Russian units carried out reconnaissance and artillery activity. Four hundred German officers and men were killed. In the Lisichansk area one Soviet unit dislodged the Germans from a fortified position and repelled several counter-attacks wiping out about one battalion. A further company of Germans were killed west of Rostov. Guerillas operating in the Smolensk region ambushed a German military train carrying troops. On May 21 our air force on the various sectors of the front destroyed and damaged 'over' German tanks and over 50 lorries carrying troops and supplies.—Reuter.

WASHINGTON: The widow of the former President of the United States Mr. William Howard Taft died here on Saturday.—Reuter.

Roosevelt-Churchill Conference Decisions

Plan For Major Blows Against Axis In All Theatres Of War?

WASHINGTON, May 23.

A decisive stage has been reached in the Anglo-American strategy talks here writes Reuter's special correspondent.

As the Americans eagerly awaited the result of the Attu battle, which brings nearer the dream of bombing Tokyo—close to every American heart—Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt conferred final plans for major blows against the Axis in every theatre of war.

Within a few days, possibly hours, decisions will have been taken which will sooner or later send the Allied air, land and sea forces into action on a scale not yet seen outside Russia. While the Americans naturally hope that the plans will be found to expedite the offensive against Japan, there is general agreement that the joint staffs, whose findings are now being considered at the White House have adhered to the general policy of defeating Hitler first.

NEXT STEP TO SECOND FRONT

Well-informed observers feel that the overriding need to co-operate with the Red Army in aiming a knockout blow at Germany will almost certainly make Europe the main battlefield in the near future. Amphibious operations against the Axis-held islands in the Mediterranean, combined with intensified air attacks on German occupied Europe, are indicated as the next step towards the opening of a second front. These may be undertaken simultaneously with landings in Northern Norway in order to protect convoys and force the first effective land link with the Russians. If Norway is invaded, unofficial military quarters here believe that Hitler, with only some eight divisions available, would be unable to make an effective stand above Trondheim. President Roosevelt's statement that a majority of the United States are in the Pacific, and half the air fleet outside the United Stats are in the Pacific, coming on the heels of Mr. Churchill's pledge that Britain will fight Japan to the end, has silenced all but the most vociferous "hit Japan now" critics of Allied strategy. Increasing aid to China, which implies a campaign in Burma after the rains, is, evidently in forefront of the Allies' Pacific programme.

Americans Warned

WASHINGTON:—The Director of the United States' office of War Information Mr. Elmer Davis in a broadcast today warned the Americans "Hitler's chances of success are increased by some people in this country who have let our recent victories go to their heads who think they can ease up because the war will be over by Christmas. It will be over by some Christmas, but not this one not by evidence that is in sight now."—Reuter.

ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED TO-DAY

WASHINGTON: It is learned that no announcement on Roosevelt-Churchill Conference will be made before Monday or Tuesday at the earliest. The statement when made—probably at a joint Press Conference—will not be very detailed.—Reuter.

CHURCHILL CONFERS WITH PHILLIPS

WASHINGTON, May 22.

Mr. Churchill this morning conferred for half an hour with President Roosevelt's special representative in India Mr. William Phillips.—Reuter.

CHURCHILL MOVES TO BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, May 22.

Mr. Churchill today moved to the British Embassy. As Mr. Churchill's change of quarters will inevitably curtail communication between himself and President Roosevelt it may be taken for granted that the stage of constant consultations is now past. It only remains to set the seal on decisions on which agreement has already been reached.—Reuter.

GIRAUD'S PLAN TO SET UP UNION

LONDON:—Gen. Giraud has sent a letter to Gen. de Gaulle urging immediate joint action to establish a union, says the Independent French Agency. Declaring his belief that the time has come to end preliminary discussions and take action, Gen. Giraud proposes the immediate formation of a Central Executive Committee which would be the central power governing and being responsible for all matters hitherto governed by the National Committee in London and the Civil and Military Commander-in-Chief at Algiers.

Gen. Giraud and Gen. de Gaulle would exercise the presidency of the Committee in turn.—Reuter.

CATROUX MEETS DE GAULLE

LONDON, May 23.

Gen. Catroux has arrived in London from Algiers and conferred with Gen. de Gaulle this morning.

It is said to be unlikely that there will be a meeting of the Fighting French National Committee to decide the reply to Gen. Giraud's latest proposals until tomorrow, states Reuter's diplomatic correspondent.—Reuter.

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All-India Weather Report

POONA, May 23.

Following is weather chart showing maximum and minimum temperatures and rainfall in inches recorded at eight hours on 19th May, 1943 :—

Allahabad 110, 82, 0; Bombay 93, 82, 0; Calcutta 96, 81, 0; Cawnpore 109, 83, 0; Cuttack 100, 81, 0; Darjeeling 66, 55, T; Delhi 104, 74, 0; Dehra Dun 98, 66, 0; Jacobabad 110, 78, 0. Karachi 89, 80, 0; Lahore 103, 69, 0; Lucknow 111, 79, 0; Madras 80, 76, 7; Nagpur 104, 86, 0; Patna 108, 80, 0. Peshawar 97, 69, 0; Simla 73, 58, 0.—A. P.

"Swaraj is my birth-right and I will have it".

—TILAK.

The Bombay Chronicle

RELEASE THEM OR TRY THEM—II

In a statement just issued by them Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. M. R. Jayakar and four others have strongly supported the country's insistent demand for the release or trial of Congress leaders and workers detained without a trial. The statement comes not a day too soon and is well argued. It points out the grave injustice and unfairness of Government in publicly making grave charges against the Congress leaders and yet denying them any opportunity to defend themselves. It also points out the unreasonableness of putting off a trial till after the war as by then the evidence in their favour may cease to be available and some of the condemned may even be dead. To the objection that a trial would cause public excitement the signatories to the statement reply that the continued detention of the leaders for an indefinite period is causing and will continue to cause a stronger feeling of indignation. They, therefore, suggest that the *ex-parte* accusations by Government should be investigated by "a tribunal of unchallengeable status and impartiality, a tribunal so constituted as to satisfy all reasonable men that it will carry on its investigation without fear or favour, and that its decisions will in no way be influenced by the published views of the Executive Government." If, however, the signatories add, Government cannot for any reason set up such a tribunal, "justice no less than expediency demand that Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues should be set at liberty so that they may apply themselves as free men, as we expect that they will, to a review of the situation and to the solution of the present deadlock in consultation and co-operation with other important parties."

These suggestions and arguments are not new. They are repeated here because they now come from eminent lawyers like Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. M. R. Jayakar, who can appreciate the claims of justice as well as statesmanship and who are respected by Government as well as the public. When such men warn Government that "no well-wisher of the Government can contemplate without grave concern a continuance of the present state of things which forebodes ill for the mutual relations between India and Britain," it will be good for Government to heed the warning. Assuming charitably that Government are nervous about releasing Congress leaders charged with being pro-Japanese, the possibility must at least be considered of the evidence on which the charges may have been based being utterly unreliable. Sir Tej Bahadur and Dr. Jayakar point out how Madame Chiang Kai-shek recently suggested in a public speech in America that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should be set at liberty and that she could not possibly have made the suggestion if she had the slightest fear of his being pro-Japanese. If it is pleaded that Government have *bona fide* though groundless, fears, why is it that such responsible men as Mr. William Phillips and Mr. C. Rajagopalachari were not given a chance of interviewing Gandhiji and thereby proving those fears to be utterly baseless? Why is it that the Viceroy would not so much as discuss the situation personally with Rajaji and others who sought an interview with him for the purpose. The only reasonable explanation of such an attitude of Government is that they fear that contacts with Gandhiji and discussions with leaders like Rajaji may prove the absurdity of the main accusations against Congress and that this will embarrass them in their relations with America and China. If there is any better explanation, we should like to know what it is. If Government see their error now or at least would respect public opinion they may yet retrieve the situation by releasing or trying the Congressmen in detention.

A Great Decision

The decision to disband the Moscow General Headquarters of all Communist Parties throughout the world, thus making these parties national and indigenous in their own countries, is a great one. It is, as Prof. Laski points out, one of the most hopeful events in political development since 1919. It is not, however, altogether surprising. It is the logical outcome of the policy of realism which Stalin has followed during the last few years. The existence of the Communist International has been a bugbear to all imperialist countries and has, in so small measure, been responsible for the mixed feelings of suspicion and fear with which the ruling class in those countries has contemplated the post-war policy of Russia. The suspicion and fear have prevented that whole-hearted co-operation between Russia, on the one hand, and Britain and the U.S.A., on the other, which the common cause for which they are fighting demands. The most important and immediate result of the Moscow gesture will, therefore, be to strengthen the solidarity of the Allied Nations and make their joint effort more vigorous and more effective. The charge against Communists all the world over has been that they are bond-slaves of Russia and are more loyal to it than to their own countries. Whether the charge is justified or not, the fact that it has openly been made has deprived the Communists of much of the advantage they would otherwise have enjoyed of being an international party and it certainly has been a very potent obstacle to their popularity in their own countries. The Moscow move will, to a very large extent, remove this obstacle and, especially in China and India, help the Communists to gain new strength. But how deep-seated is the distrust of the Communist even among labour circles is demonstrated by the views of an ex-Chairman of the British Trade Union Council who says: "The mere fact that the Communist International has been disbanded without consulting Communist parties in various parts of the world proves once again that they are mere puppets. We still do not trust the Communist party of Great Britain, and if they gained access to the British Labour party the policy might still be changed again later." Prof. Laski's appreciation of the Moscow decision is, however, juster and he is right when he urges, now that the Communist International is disbanded, the rebuilding of a single and all-embracing Labour International and the initiation before the hostilities of discussion to this end.

How Soon?

It is not too exaggerated a claim that the Allied air offensive against Italy is turning into a "massacre" of Axis aircraft. In three days ending Friday last American and British bombers and fighters are reported to have destroyed on the ground and in combat no fewer than 282 German and Italian planes for the loss of only 13 of their own. This is a terrible toll which, if continued, may break the back of Axis air strength in Italy, Sardinia and Sicily in a matter of a few days. Alongside this "massacre" the "softening up" process is also going on in Sardinia, Sicily and Southern Italy. Once mastery over the Italian air is achieved the "softening up" may well end before long in the realisation of Signor Mussolini's worst fears.

Nor are the fears confined to Italy and Mussolini alone. Hitler, too, has good reasons to entertain them in regard to Western Europe. The strength of the Allied air offensive from Britain has been mounting steadily and winning considerable success according to admissions by the Germans themselves, recent spectacular instances being raids on the two Dams, Wilhemshaven and Emden. They are, of course, direct blows on German war production and worrying enough. But Hitler having felt the effectiveness of the present campaign may well wonder whether Allied air strength is not now sufficiently overwhelming to make invasion possible. In this connection it is interesting to note the intriguing speech of Mr. Oliver Lyttleton, Britain's Production Minister. He was, of course, deliberately tantalising in his vagueness as to where the blow would fall. But he appeared to be quite clear that fall it certainly would. The question is: How soon?

FRANKLY SPEAKING

The Russian Front

The calm before the big and probably the last storm on Russian front has continued with each sides attributing preparations for an imminent offensive to the other. It is, of course, not possible definitely to say as to which side is going to strike. The Russians have proved themselves even more capable than Germans of springing surprises. On the other hand, the strategical situation of the war makes it quite reasonable to suppose that, as Mr. Churchill says, the Germans will soon attempt a decisive blow against Russia. Russian reports regarding concentrations in the area of Kursk and the significant mention of damage to Kursk strengthen this view. But even though Mr. Churchill is right in asserting that the Germans will fail, to make the failure substantial for the Germans and less costly to the Russians it is necessary for the latter's Allies to move as quickly as possible.

Important Success

The U. S. Navy communique reported on Saturday that the battle for Attu had entered its last stage. This is more than confirmed by Japanese references to a desperate position against increasingly hopeless odds and by the language of resignation in German comments. It is quite likely that by now the Japanese already split into three have, either surrendered or been annihilated. The reconquest of Attu is a significant development because it is within bombing distance of Japan proper. As the Germans point out, it will play a major part in the Pacific strategy. But in order to exploit the full possibilities of Attu or rather of the Aleutian group it would be necessary to recapture Kiska, too. It will be a tougher proposition but not so tough with the Americans operating against it as they can now from both the west and the east. Moreover, in addition to supremacy in the air, they command the mastery of the sea, too, in that area.

Turkey Preparing For All Events

LONDON (By Cable).

With her army mobilised practically up to war strength so far as first line troops are concerned, and her small but modern air force keenly alert, Turkey is quietly waiting the next move in Germany's campaign of bluff, bribes and blackmail, which has been carried on unceasingly for the past 18 months.

For Hitler has no hopes now of driving the Turks into the Axis camp; he has come to realise that their word is their bond and that, having entered into a gentlemen's agreement with Britain, they will honour it to the last.

But with the final surrender of the Axis armies in North Africa, Turkey knows that the war has come even nearer her own doorstep. And she has made all preparations to meet it.

On her northern frontiers is a strong Bulgarian and German force which could easily become a powerful invasion army striking through Thrace. For months the Germans have been strengthening the Bulgar border army; armour and heavy guns have been moved from Germany with massive troop concentrations and squadrons of Luftwace have been drafted from bases in occupied France.

There is no possibility of the Turks being taken by surprise. Every move on the Axis chessboard has been followed by the closest attention in Ankara where it is well realised that the tension which has developed between Bulgaria and Turkey has its origin in Berlin.

To the Bulgarain people as a whole war with Russia would be about the most unpopular happening in their life. A part of the army officer class and the Bulgar Government have every sympathy for Russia in her struggle with Germany. Their antagonism to Turkey, however, is hereditary and Hitler banks on stirring up sufficient national feeling to make an attack on the Turks, a move in which they could enter with enthusiasm.

The Turks are magnificent soldiers. They proved that in the last war. To-day well equipped, well led and full of the patriotic fervour which Kemal Ataturk inspired, they may be counted on to fight to the last man and gun.

They are supported by a people united in their determination to defend their freedom.

The Turkish Government is led by a Prime Minister known and respected for his integrity and shrewd political insight. M. Sarajoglu had a stern testing time when, as Foreign Minister, he steered his country safely through the shoals of intrigue that marked Germany's early efforts to involve Turkey in the war.

M. Sarajoglu has stated publicly that Turkey, while anxious to remain on friendly terms with the warring nations, will never permit her sovereignty and independence to be challenged. In that he has the support of his President, his Cabinet, people and army.

If Turkey can come through without fighting and without loss of honour, it will be due to the men who guide her destiny.—"Reynold's News."

DEMAND CONTACT WITH IMPRISONED LEADERS

Force Of Public Opinion Will Tell On Govt., Asserts Resigned I. C. S. Officer.

"The Government has no mind to solve the deadlock and apparently it is doing its best to see that it is not solved. A great responsibility thus rests on leaders of public opinion and the country is looking to them for guidance," says Mr. R. K. Patil who has just been "permitted to resign from the I.C.S." in the course of an article he has contributed to the "Hitavada" of Nagpur.

Justifying Gandhiji's stand, Mr. Patil says: "Our case is so clear and so well founded on justice and reason that it cannot be controverted. And if public opinion expresses itself in an organised manner, government is bound to concede, the absolutely reasonable demand of establishing contact with imprisoned Congress leaders."

Following is the full text of Mr. Patel's article:

VICEROY'S REPLY TO BOMBAY MEMORANDUM

In replying to the memorandum presented to him by the Committee of the Bombay Leaders' Conference, His Excellency the Viceroy stated, while controverting the allegation that His Excellency's refusal to allow the Committee to meet Gandhiji would further alienate public opinion in India against Great Britain, that it was Government's duty to guard India against foreign aggression even at the risk of exacerbating public opinion in India against Great Britain.

Even for a slave country like ours used to important decisions affecting it being taken by its foreign rulers, the statement appears presumptuous in the extreme, even assuming that the opinion expressed is sincerely held by His Excellency the Viceroy.

There are, however, no obvious grounds to justify such an assumption.

How, by allowing the leaders to see Gandhiji, foreign aggression against India would have been facilitated has not been explained by the Viceroy in the course of his reply.

Besides it is well-known that the object of the Committee was to explore an avenue for settlement of the present deadlock, which is admittedly grievously interfering with India's war effort.

Prima facie, therefore, it is inconceivable how the granting of the request made on behalf of the Committee would in any way have facilitated foreign aggression against India, and if His Excellency's reply is not to be passed over as a piece of self-deception it can only be compared to the old story of the wolf and the lamb when unable to engage successfully in an argument with the lamb, the wolf devoured the lamb after short circuiting the argument that if he had not offended him, his forefathers must have done so

INTELLIGIBLE STAND

There is, however, one aspect of the refusal, which, though it has not been so categorically stated in the course of His Excellency's reply, could yet be cited as a justification in support of the refusal

From this angle, His Excellency's position may be briefly summarised as follows:

The Congress Leaders precipitated a movement which had the effect of paralysing India's War effort at a time when India was threatened with Japanese invasion. The leaders have, therefore done a great disservice to India, and unless they recant, repent and apologise, no contact whatsoever must ever be allowed to be maintained with such persons.

Such a stand would have been quite intelligible had the Government proceeded to liberalise its present administration, and popularise the war effort by ignoring the Congress completely and carrying on the administration of the country with the assistance of the non-Congress nationalists.

It could then have been said that the Government is at least sincere about its intentions towards India, and it is the Congress which, by its own actions, has thrown itself out of court.

But the present policy of Government appears to be to perpetuate the deadlock by crediting the Congress with popular sympathy and support, and indirectly admitting that without Congress assistance the administration cannot be liberalised and the war effort popularised.

Thus on the one hand, no contact is allowed to be made with the Congress leaders and on the other, no steps are being taken by Government to popularise its present administration with enough popular support to augment the war effort.

The conclusion can only be that Government is well satisfied with the assistance that it is drawing from India in the shape of its war effort and, therefore, is in no mood itself to take any steps to solve the deadlock.

PROMISES GALORE

This position has to be examined in the perspective of the promise repeated 'ad nauseam', to India of post-war independence and the threat somewhat remote now but still real of a powerful enemy on India's Eastern frontier.

"India has been promised in the most solemn manner full freedom to decide its own constitution after the war" said Mr. Sumner Welles, the other day.

And Sir Stafford Cripps went as far as to assert that "the future Indian Union would be free to decide on secession from the British Empire if it wanted to".

The Japanese threat to India and the Allies is still there.

The question can naturally be asked how a Government which is so indifferent to Indian opinion in time of war, be expected to stand by and honour its pledges after the war is over and it is flushed with victory?

On what grounds, the belief that this promise of post-war Independence will be fulfilled is to be held by us?

It is this feeling which makes many public men sceptical about India's future and is materially affecting India's war effort.

FEELING OF FRUSTRATION

And in spite of the repeated statements that the Cripps offer remains open, the feeling is growing that the offer has lapsed with the end of the threat from the East, which really originated it

There is a feeling of frustration pervading the whole country and it is the duty of every thoughtful and public-spirited Indian to devise ways and means to solve the deadlock.

And no patriotic Indian can consider with equanimity even the thought that after all even after the war India may not be free.

GANDHIJI'S STAND

But why does not Mahatma Gandhi do what is asked of him? That surely is one way of solving the deadlock.

In the correspondence that took place between His Excellency the Vicercy and Mahatma Gandhi the latter was asked to fulfil certain conditions, which no person, however, great could do on his own authority.

He claimed and rightly too, that if the Viceroy wanted a change of his personal view he should be convinced beforehand and in case any change was required in the views of the Congress, he should be put amongst the members of the Working Committee.

It is difficult to imagine anything more fair and just than what was asked for by Gandhiji.

HOW TO END DEADLOCK?

How is the deadlock to end? The Government has no mind to solve it and apparently it is doing its best to see that it is not solved.

It is probably axiomatic that what India will gain by a satisfactory solution of this deadlock now will be of great value in the future.

It is clear that a little effort now in organising and making public opinion felt will have more fruitful results from the point of view of the final objective, than Herculean attempts after the war.

A great responsibility thus rests on leaders of public opinion and the country is looking to them for guidance.

Past experience has shown that without some sort of sanction there can be no effect on Government's policy. It is therefore necessary that the whole country should concentrate on this and the only issue.

FOUNDED ON JUSTICE

Our case is so clear and so well founded on justice and reason that it cannot be contested. And if public opinion expresses itself in an organised manner Government is bound to concede the absolutely reasonable demand of establishing contact with the imprisoned Congress leaders. Let there be public meetings throughout the country designed to secure this end.

The most arresting thing which we are witnessing in the world to-day is the enormous sacrifice that is being made by man for the preservation of his freedom. Literally rivers of flesh and blood are being crossed by the soldiers of freedom in defence of their liberty and the liberty of their fellowmen.

If in this war for freedom any man who cares to call himself by that name and is fully conscious of the rights and liabilities attaching to it fails to throw his full weight on the side fighting for freedom, he has no right to call himself a man.

"Is there a man with soul so dead that does not love his motherland?" thus echoed an old Poet. That echo still rings true and clear in every patriotic heart.

Inculcate Message Of Freedom And Unity Through Writings

BOMBAY CONFERENCE'S APPEAL TO ALL PROGRESSIVE WRITERS

A resolution calling upon all progressive writers of the country to try incessantly to carry through the medium of their writings the message of freedom and Unity to the Indian people, and thus to inspire them with faith in their inherent strength was carried unanimously at the Fourth All-India Progressive Writers' Conference at Marwadi Vidyalaya Hall on Sunday night.

The resolution which was moved by K. A. Abbas 'inter alia' stated :—

"In this period of grave peril, it is the supreme task of Indian progressive writers, to spiritually sustain the nation, it is their duty to fortify the will and the morale of our people so that the day of our freedom shall be hastened, so that our culture and civilization may be preserved and developed and so that we may emerge out of this epoch of storm and stress, united, strong and free.

The progressive writers have always stood for the freedom of India, an equitable and just social and economic order, they have also fought all forms of social reaction and obscurantist tendencies in thought. They have conceived of Indian freedom as an integral part of world freedom, and while proclaiming the inalienable right of our people to be free from all forms of imperialist domination, have taken their stand against Fascism—which is nothing but the most violent phase of the imperialist system.

"We admire the Soviet and the Chinese writers who are to-day suffering with their people the misery of a bitter war, and who continue to keep the torch of art and literature burning bright even in this hour of darkness. We too shall not lag behind. We shall try incessantly to carry the message of Freedom and Unity to our people so as to inspire them with faith in their inherent strength.

SPECIFIC TASKS

"With these general objects in view the Progressive Writers' Association must achieve the following specific tasks: (1) Producing short plays, stories poems, songs, balads emphasising the need of National Unity for the achievement of freedom from Imperialist yoke and the defence of our country against Japanese aggression. (2) Translation and propagation of progressive foregin writings and specially of recent Soviet and Chinese literature. (3) Publication at regular intervals of a symposium, in English, of outstanding works from different Indian languages. (4) Publication of journals and collections of progressive literature in the different languages of India. (5) Organization of literary and cultural Circles among workers and peasants, and link up the P. W. A. with the folk literature and arts. (6) To cooperate with the Indian People's Theatre Association, and to assist it by writing.

RELEASE OF LEADERS DEMANDED

By an another resolution the Conference condemned the continued detention of the Congress leaders and demanded this immediate and unconditional release.

One more resolution welcomed the development of "People's Theatre Movement" and called upon the writers to co-operate with I. P. T. A. for such development.

All the resolutions were carried unanimously.

In the afternoon Mr. Satendranath Mazmudar spoke on the necessity of using literature as a medium of human progress and a weapon to fight the aggressive forces of Fascism.

ROLE OF POET

Mr. "Josh" Malihabadi, speaking on the role of poet in modern life, pointed out that a real poet must inevitably respond and react to life's realities and problems, but they could not be regimented and made to write propagandist poetry to order.

Prof. Jhagirdar speaking on Kanarese literature said that it was 2,000 years old. He showed how even centuries ago the progressive trends and appeared in it.

The Conference continues to-day Monday.

Karachi's Tribute To Allah Baksh

KARACHI: At a public meeting of the citizens of Karachi held on Sunday evening under the joint auspices of the Communist Party and the Trade Union Congress, speeches were made paying tributes to late Mr. Allah Baksh. Speakers urged that a suitable memorial be erected in memory of the departed leader.

The meeting adopted a resolution viewing with consternation the murder of Mr. Allah Baksh, and recorded its emphatic opinion that the only fitting memorial to "such a martyr" would be to steer clear of narrow communalism. The resolution appealed to all Sindhis to work for communal harmony and national unity. The meeting offered its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Mr. Allah Baksh and asked the Government to bring the culprits to book without any loss of time.

At the end of the meeting the Khaksars staged a rally as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Allah Baksh.—A. P.

'WILL NEVER TOLERATE BR. COMMUNIST METHODS"

LONDON : Mr. Tom O'Brien, member of the General Council of the Trade Unions Council, said at Hendon to-night that if the decision to disband the Communist International was genuine, a logical corollary was the dissolution of the British Communist party. The labour movement in this country had always given full support to the Soviet Union in every crisis, but it would never tolerate methods of British communists.

PREVENTING POST-WAR 'CALAMITY'

LONDON: Immediate steps to plan and carry out an Empire policy for air transport are needed to prevent a post-war "calamity", says the Committee of British Businessmen on Monday. The statement is issued by the Joint Air Transport Committee of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of British Industries and the London Chamber of Commerce.—Reuter.

THE STORY OF A FLIGHT

A journalist has at times to perform odd jobs quite out of the ordinary rut, whether he likes it or not. A correspondent of a foreign paper considered the work of reporting incidents connected with the last epic fast of Mahatmaji as a "queer assignment". Perhaps from a foreigner's point of view he was right. Well, to be asked by one's boss to get ready in a few hours to soar high in the clouds,—not literally, of course—over our good old city, I consider to be rather unusual, not, of course a "queer assignment"—not having fathomed the mysteries of ether, let alone stratosphere. Jumping at the offer of having a thrill of my lifetime I prepared myself, come what may, either from the heavens or—er, the earthly goddess at home! So, on Tunisia Day at 6-15 p.m., along with 14 brother journalists, I occupied a seat in one of the five planes reserved for us. What a lively sight it presented, especially when Sol had exhausted himself in its May fury. When we were shooting up I recalled to my mind the words of a child, who accompanied its father in the lift of an American skyscraper, who rather nervously enquired 'Daddy, does God know we are coming?" when they had shot up the 10th storey. Feeling akin to that began to creep into my veins, at the most for a few seconds only.

* * *

After experiencing a monetary thrill we settled down to matter-of-fact realities. No cinema film could show us such an unforgettable panoramic view. In one majestic round-the-clock sweep over sea and land a very small square area that Bombay boasts of was dotted with a large number of bungalows with fine gardens in the Malabar Hill and New Worli and Colaba districts huddled together with tall unimposing structures that make up our queer Marina, the bugbear of Beverleys,—and not far away the huts and hovels of workers and sweepers in the north, affording a striking contrast, making one's heart glad and swell at one moment and sink at another. Perhaps, Bombay had never an earthly chance of developing in its own truly nationalist way, ever since it came into the hands of the E. I. Co. Well you may as well say that it had a chance of development in one particular area over two decades ago. Let me not dilate on that sordid episode, the bitter aftermath of the handiwork of that capitalist minded satrap can best be slurred over lest it might make the blood of our good old friend, K. F. Lall! A beautiful sea all round with tolerably good beach has fortunately offset much that is offending.

* * *

Once in a way we the hardworking much abused journalists had a chance of looking down on the bigwigs of the fashionable districts mentioned above. It was an ideal trip much enjoyed by me and my colleagues. Those who have dread of an aerial flight and get jittery can well be advised to take a ride first in the giant joy wheel at the Fun Fair now happily still going on! It will buck them up for an aerial soaring.

A flight otherwards will enable some persons to shed the cold they suffer from or throw off their excess bile, as some of us did, much for their physical betterment. If busybodies who spoil newspaper columns with unending controversies take my tip they will spare readers of much of their splenetic outbursts.

Reactions of my dash heavenwards unknown to the party most vitally concerned and her pre-prandial oration and curtain lecture, of her right to know beforehand and decide, etc., is quite a different story which perhaps will be dealt with fully in a future article, when journalists celebrate the Allies' final victory in Europe and we are probably taken there to see the handiwork of Hitler and his pot-bellied puppet, in a grand flight. Flight Lieutenant Brooke, will you kindly note this? Thanks many for your trouble, in the meantime, for arranging this trip.

KAM.

CIVILIAN CRITICISING COLONIAL GOVT.?

"Leader" On Govt.'s Deal To Agent-General For India In China

(From Our Correspondent)

ALLAHABAD, May 22.

The "Leader" of a local liberal paper publishes a report that Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Agent-General for India in China is not proceeding to Chungking "because of congestion in the city and the difficulty in securing a bungalow."

In commenting the news, the "Leader" says: "Has any one heard the Ambassador of any country being homeless in the most congested of Ambassadorial cities?' How is it, while accommodation is available for the preceding Agent-General and Members of Parliamentary Mission it is not available to Mr. Menon.

The paper proceeds to give the following probable reason for Mr. Menon's not going to Chungking: "Though civil servant Mr. Menon cannot only think for himself but is not afraid of expressing his opinion. His report to Zanzibar Government's clove decrees gave abundant proof of his stern rectitude. No civil servant ever criticized the doings of a Colonial Government in such scathing terms."

The paper foreshadows that Mr. Menon's appointment may be cancelled and that someone else may be sent to Chungking.

U. S. Coal Strike Situation

PITTSBURGH (Pennsylvania), May 22.

A decision by the War Labour Board on increases to coal miners is expected early next week.

The Board which is sitting daily in Washington received to-day the sub-committee's report on means of granting increases.

The number of striking miners is now 3,800 with eight mines closed in three States. The back to work movement to-day more than offset the number of men walking out.—Reuter.

Himmler Gets More Powers

LONDON, May 23.

The Moscow radio quoting a Stockholm message said to-day: "Reports reaching Stockholm state that Herr Himmler has been vested with extraordinary powers following panic created not only in the Ruhr but in other areas by the destruction of the Mohne and Edar dams by the R.A.F.

This decision was taken at a conference of Nazi leaders shortly after the raid and was confirmed by Hitler the same night."—Reuter.

TETE-A-TETE

WITHOUT COMMENT—

BOSTON, May 22.

"By the end of this year American merchant marine will be the largest and certainly the best equipped in the world," said Rear-Admiral Howard Vickery, Vice-Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, in a speech here to-day.—"Reuter."

* * *

The news of the day, week month,, year, decade or whatever the present state of your feelings may demand, is, of course, the liq—oh pardon, pardon, we mean the recommendation to disband the Com...ttern.

We believe gratuitously that we are called upon to give you the benefit of our authoritative opinion on the subject.

You see, as a brother commentator says, it is—no that won't do. Rather, as our Anglo-Indian contemporary seems to—no, that won't do either.

Let us begin again, the point, you see, is that since—we think we had better change the topic for the time being.

* * *

Speaking at the Conservative Conference on behalf of all the British trustees of India Captain Godfrey Nicholson, M.P., emphasized that "we", that is, the trustees, had rescued India from the "slough of chaos, misery, hunger and all unhappiness."

Long live the great memory of the late East India Company, Lord Clive, Warren Hastings etc. and long live for another 180 years Britain's trusteeship over India.

* * *

At a function in Yeotmal Sjt. M. S. Aney declared: "his unshakable faith in the doctrine of Karma."

Good heavens! What would so many of his friends, ex-colleagues—but, it's quite all right, Sjt. Aney was referring to the Allied victory over the Axis on the occasion of Tunisia Day.

* * *

Asked why Indian farmers were not invited along with those of Dominions to see British farming efforts, the Secretary of the British National Farmers' Union is reported to have pleaded that Union didn't know whom to approach.

This is quite an illuminatingly convincing plea.

But it is scarcely a compliment to India's Farmer-in-Chief, Srijut Lord Linlithgow.

* * *

Returning from his Middle East tour, Comrade Jamnadas Mehta declares "we have achieved the main purpose of our visit ....."

Lest you might unjustly take it to mean a series of joy rides after the event, we must emphasize that the main purpose was to contact Indian soldiers and auxiliary servicemen.

* * *

Comrade Mehta visited Keren in Eritriea, too, and saw what miracle Indian troops had performed in scaling a hill that "was so steep that even experienced mountaineers would find it difficult to climb."

The sight, we are confident, would inspire him to continue trying the steep heights which he has so far failed to storm and capture.

* * *

The "New York Times" reminds American critics of the British that Burma is 400 times the size of Attu whence the Americans have been trying to drive the Japanese for over eleven days now.

The paper would evidently be content if the Japs were driven away from Burma in, say, 4,000 days.

AMERY MUM ON WHIPPING

(From Our Correspondent.)

LONDON, May 23.

According to a report in the "Hansard" of May 20, Dr. Russell Thomas asked Mr. Amery: "In view of the fact that the British Government are one stabilising influence in India enabling many millions of our humble subjects to live in peace, does not the minister think that constant questions of the Hon'ble Member (Reginald Sorensen who had earlier described whipping in India as a deplorable medieval practice) are completely mischievous?"

Dr. Edith Summerskill asked Mr. Amery: Has it been brought to the notice of the Rt. Hon. Gentleman that psychiatrists are of the opinion that whipping make an individual anti-social?

Mr. Amery: I cannot answe that question.

A Triple Tragedy In City

BOMBAY, Sunday.

A sensation in the city to-day Bapoo Keshav a mill-worker who was married ten days back was, it is said honeymooning at Cadell Road in a tiny little proletarian flat.

Last night he had an altercation with his wife, in the course of which it is alleged Bapoo lost his temper and in a sudden fit of frenzy assaulted his wife with a knife.

Hearing the shrieys of the girl, two uncles of the bride who were living in the same tenement rushed to her rescue. They it is alleged, were also mercilessly stabbed.

Bapoo absconded after accomplishing his foul work.

The victims were taken to hospital where they all succumbed to the injuries.

The police who were looking out for the alleged murderer it is said, found him standing on the railway track at Dadar, about to commit suicide.

CAWNPORE, May 23.

The Municipal Board passed condolence resolution on the death of Khan Bahadur Allahbux expressing its deep sense of sorrow and indignation at the dastardly outrage on the life of Allahbux, a staunch nationalist. The Muslim members did not participate in the condolence resolution proceedings. — United Press.

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Women of the W.A.C.(I) are doing invaluable work in administrative offices, in canteens, in hospitals and in many other places doing a wide variety of jobs previously done by men. There is interesting work for everyone according to ability and training, from telephone operating or stenography to highly specialised work in the laboratory or in communications.

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BELGAUM	Old Telegraph Office, Bungalow No. 39.
BOMBAY:	Esplanade Maidan (North) Dhobi Talao.
KHANDWA:	Military Barracks.
NAGPUR:	Assembly Rest House.
POONA:	Staunton Road.

Or to the nearest Platoon Commander W. A. C. (I).

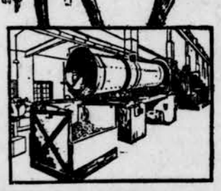
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THE NATIONAL TOBACCO COMPANY OF INDIA LIMITED

Non-Party Leaders' Demand For Jail Delivery

Ex-Parte Accusations Against Gandhiji Refuted

NEW DELHI, May 22.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. M. R. Jayakar and four other leaders have made a statement urging the appointment of an impartial tribunal to investigate the charges made against Congress leaders now in detention, or in the alternative, release those leaders so as to enable them to review the situation and attempt a solution of the present deadlock.

The following statement has been issued under the joint signatures of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. M. R. Jayakar, Dr. S. Sinha, Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, Raja Maheshwar Dayal Seth, and Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad:—

Demand For Justice

"His Excellency the Viceroy's recent refusal to permit any non-Congress leaders to interview Mahatma Gandhi and the speeches of Mr. Amery in the House of Commons can be reasonably interpreted as indicating that the British Government are resolved to keep Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other prominent leaders of the Congress in detention without trial for the duration of the war. Even more significant is the denial to Mr. Phillips, the personal representative of President Roosevelt, of an opportunity to see Mahatma Gandhi. We ourselves have regretted that the Congress should have passed the resolution which it did pass on the 8th of August, 1942 at Bombay. We have also condemned the acts of violence and sabotage which took place a few months ago in this country. We wish to place beyond all doubt that we seek for no concessions for Mahatma Gandhi and his chief associates. We are not petitioners on their behalf for clemency or tenderness. Our demand is for justice and no more and no less.

GRAVE CHARGES

Grave charges have been publicly made against Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues and it has been suggested both in England and in India that the Congress leaders were pro-Japanese. To the best of our knowledge and belief there is no truth in this allegation. Mahatma Gandhi's Pacifism known all over the world should not in our opinion be interpreted as amounting to his sympathy with any of the Axis Powers. The charges brought against Mahatma Gandhi are to be found in the published correspondence between the Viceroy and Mahatma Gandhi. In Government 'communiques' and pamphlets and in the pronouncements of the Secretary of State for India. It is somewhat remarkable that these charges have been made at a time when those who could meet them had no opportunity of rebutting them.

It has been said that nothing was easier for Mahatma Gandhi than to repudiate acts of violence or acts of sabotage and to withdraw civil disobedience.

We feel that he has already repudiated the acts of violence and it is our conviction that so far as he is concerned, his adherence to the doctrine of non-violence is as strong today as it ever was. For ourselves, we do not believe in civil disobedience either on principle or as a matter of expediency, but we are constrained to observe that matters were allowed to drift after the failure of the Cripps Mission and no attempt was made to avert a crisis by the exercise of imagination and constructive statesmanship.

Ex-Parte Accusations

Taking the situation as it is, we urge that the 'ipse dixit' of the Executive Government should not be regarded as sufficiency to justify the prolonged detention of imprisoned leaders without impartial investigation. Let those 'ex-parte accusations be investigated by a tribunal of unchallengable status and impartiality—a tribunal so constituted as to satisfy all reasonable men that it will carry on its investigation without fear or favour, and that its decisions will in no way be influenced by the published views of the Executive Government.

We consider that the setting up of such a tribunal is in the highest interests of the Government itself. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek has recently stated in a public speech in America that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should be set at liberty and that speech was made after the charges against him had been broadcast to the world. Can his continued detention be justified before world opinion if he is denied every opportunity of defending himself? If the objection to our demand is that such an investigation into the charges against Mahatma Gandhi and his co-workers is not feasible during the war we should like to point out that in his letter to Mahatma Gandhi dated Feb. 5, 1943, His Excellency the Viceroy said: "If we do not act on all this information or make it publicly known, it is because the time is not yet ripe; but you may rest assured that the charges against Congress will have to be met sooner or later, and it will then be for you and your colleagues to clear yourselves before the world if you can."

To this Mahatma Gandhi replied in his letter dated February 7, 1943: "You say that the time is not yet ripe to publish the charges against the Congress. Have you ever thought of the possibility of their being found baseless when they are put before an impartial tribunal or that some of the condemned persons might have died in the meanwhile or that some of the evidence that the living can produce might become unavailable?"

It is clear, therefore, that so far back as the 5th of February, 1943, the possibility of these leaders having to clear themselves before the world was considered and maintained by His Excellency the Viceroy himself. We cannot see therefore any valid reason why that possibility should not be translated into a fact at this stage.

To the objection that the setting up of a tribunal will lead to public excitement our reply is that the continued detention of these leaders had already caused and is causing grave dissatisfaction and a keen sense of injustice in the public mind. If Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues are not allowed to meet the charges against them until after the war and are to be kept in prison till then, the plain implication of this is that some of the most prominent Indian leaders will be kept in jail without trial for may be five years and some of them may even die during this long interval.

Mr. Amery's tauntingly provocative description of such detention a 'innoculous isolation' has only increased public resentment. Government may think that they are stern enough to ignore all such feelings and that they are the sole judges as to when and whom to arrest and detain without trial for an unlimited period.

PLEA FOR MORAL BASIS

Whatever may be said of such action on the part of a Government of the people, the same cannot apply to a Government carried on by an irremovable executive irresponsible to the people of this country or to its legislature and in which the key positions are still in British hands. Whatever the legal position, the Government of India must in the circumstances, seek a moral basis for its actions and it is with that object in view that we suggest an investigation by an impartial tribunal.

We should in conclusion like to point out that the Defence of India Act Rule under which Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues were arrested, was pronounced last month by the Federal Court in an authoritative decision to be invalid. Instead of availing themselves of the opportunity to restore those men to freedom under the sanction of a decision by the highest judicial authority in India, we regret that the Government of India have tried to legalise their action by a validating Ordinance.

No well-wisher of the country can contemplate without grave concern a continuance of the present state of things which forebodes ill for the mutual relations between India and Britain.

SET THEM AT LIBERTY

The sense of frustration is now deeper if less vociferous. We sincerely hope that our suggestion that the imprisoned leaders may be given a chance of clearing themselves may be accepted. If Government for any reason are not prepared to set up an impartial tribunal, then justice no less than expediency demand that Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues should be set at liberty so that they may apply themselves as free men, as we expect that they will, to a review of the situation and to the solution of the present deadlock in consultation and co-operation with other important parties."—A. P.



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"Now free from piles."
"Cured my rheumatism and neuritis."
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"Heart is quite sound again now."
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THE FIRST SAVAGE WHIRLS AROUND — THE TRAIL IS EMPTY, HIS FOLLOWER GONE!



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42. SITUATIONS VACANT

A highly paid Job awaits you if you have fair education and wide influence. Apply Box No. 1552, "Bombay Chronicle."

Wanted immediately one experienced Dyeing Master for Tent Factory, Patna. Apply stating full particulars: Post Box No. 457, Bombay. (4644)

Wanted for Officers Mess in C. P. Head Cook, wages Rs. 60|- to Rs. 80|- per month; Second Cook, wages Rs. 40|- to Rs. 50|- per month; Abdar, wages Rs. 50|- per month; Two Kidmatgar, wages Rs. 35|- per month; Officers Mess, Ordnance Depot, Pulgaon—C. P. (4646)

Wanted: A competent Overseer experienced in Building and roads. An experienced Civil Overseer or Engineer retired will be preferred. Apply Box No. 1564, "Bombay Chronicle."

Wanted Experienced Teachers for up-country knowing Persian, Maths, Science. Apply with certificate and pay to Box No. 1566, "Bombay Chronicle."

Wanted Graduates and Undergraduates for the posts of Head-Master and Assistant Teachers, initial pay Rs. 60 and 40 respectively. Applications should reach the Secretary Anglo-Urdu High School, Jalgaon, E. Khandesh by 5th June, 1943. (1567)

Wahted immediately managers, cashiers, clerks, accountants and stenographer. Apply personally Commercial Bank of India Ltd., Bombay, Peoples Buildings, Sir Phirozshah Mehta Road. (1568)

B.Sc.'s Wanted for anti-malaria work. Applicants must be keen and healthy. Terms: Pay starts at Rs. 85|- with allowances. For full particulars apply immediately to Box No. 1516, "Bombay Chronicle."

Goanese Chef and two Assistants for High class European hotel in Rawalpindi. Must be thoroughly experienced and have first class references. Apply stating salaries required and earliest date of commencement of duties. Box No. 4629 "Bombay Chronicle."

65. ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Wanted from 1st June Independent Office Chamber with Telephone accommodation in Fort area. Please write with Particulars Box No. 1538 "Bombay Chronicle."

Wanted an independent Chamber, with a telephone connection and a separate godown in the Fort area, preferably Sir P. M. Road. Apply Box No. 1565, "Bombay Chronicle."

336. BUSINESSES FOR SALE

For Immediate Sale. A complete Ginning Factory in perfectly good condition at Dewas. May be sold whole or in parts. Apply: P. P. Pandit, Dewas (Senior). (1544)

A Peppermint or Confectionery Industry is paying now and a permanent proposition. Start one or buy a running Concern. Consult Apollo Engineering Co., Apollo Street, Bombay. (1559)

595. DANCING CLASSES

Nrityalayam, Menaka Dance Centre will open Branch in Bombay on 15th June. Applications for particulars and admission should reach Secretary, Nrityalayam, Khandala before 7th June. 1549

652 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Small Quantity of Khadi Shirting Coating and Prints available at Wholesale Rates. Naticnals Limited Prospect Chambers, Hornby Road, Fort. 1546

PUBLIC NOTICES

BOMBAY PORT TRUST.

TENDERS will be received up to 1 P.M. (S.T.) on THURSDAY, the 10th June, 1943, for the supply of 9 Static Capacitors suitable for connection to A. C Supply and 100 yards V. I. R. Wire.

Tender form giving full particulars can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Re. 1 per each copy and will not be sent V.P.P.

R. C. MASTER,
Ag. Controller of Stores.
Mazagon, Bombay No. 10.
19th May, 1943.

4639

S. G. BHAVE & CO.
MUMBRA.

As no offers were received we have not SOLD THE BUSINESS and are open for new contracts.

1570

PUBLIC NOTICES

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BOMBAY PORT TRUST.

TENDERS will be received up to 1 P. M. (S. T.) on WEDNESDAY, the 2nd June, 1943, for the supply, at the Port Trust Stores, Mazagon, Bombay No. 10, of TWENTY TONS INGOTS GUN-METAL, FIRST QUALITY.

Tender forms giving full particulars can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Re. 1|- per copy and will not be sent V.P.P.

R. C. MASTER,
Ag. Controller of Stores.
Mazagon, Bombay No. 10.
18th May, 1943.

(4640)

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY.
NOTICE.

THE PUBLIC ARE HEREBY INFORMED that the JOSEPH BAPTISTA GARDENS, Mazagaon, will remain CLOSED to visitors with effect from 1st June, 1943, until further notice.

M. D. BHAT,
Municipal Commissioner
for the City of Bombay.
18-5-1943.

(4599)

I.S.D. INSPECTION CIRCLE
WAR DEPARTMENT
BOMBAY.
WANTED.

JUNIOR CLERKS AND TYPISTS: Scale of pay Rs. 50-10-60-2-80, plus usual Dearness Allowance. The pay of the candidates with previous one year's typing or clerical experience will be fixed at Rs. 60|- in the grade of Rs. 60-2-80 as Routine Division Clerks.

MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS—Matriculation. Typists with typing speed of 35 words and over per minute and clerks with previous office experience preferred.

AGE LIMIT—30 years, can be waived in deserving cases (especially for Muslim candidates).

A NUMBER OF VACANCIES ARE RESERVED FOR MUSLIMS AND FOR OTHER MINORITY COMMUNITIES.

Posts are temporary in connection with the War. No travelling allowance is admissible for interview or for joining the appointment. Applications in candidates' own handwriting should be submitted immediately to the Controller of Inspection, I.S.D. Inspection Circle, War Department, Feltham House, Graham Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay.

Last date of receipt of applications is 5-6-1943.

(4643)

G. I. P. RLY.—TENDERS.

THE CONTROLLER OF STORES invites tenders for the purchase of scrap timber available at the Carriage and Wagon & Electrical Stores Depot, Matunga. Forms obtainable from Stores Head Office, Gipstore Lane, Lower Parel, Bombay 13, at Re. 1|- per copy, not refundable. Money Order or Cash only. Closing date 14-6-1943 at 3 P. M. (S. T.).

(4610)

No. 287
PROCLAMATION.

A REWARD of Rs. 2,000|- (Rupees Two thousands only) is offered to any person who arrests or gives information leading to the arrest of Mr. RUPCHAND H. HINGORANI, residing in the Pfaff Bldgs., Frere Road, Karachi, with the below noted description who is absconding and is wanted by Police in the recent Marriot Road dacoity in Karachi.

Age 42, height 5'-2", tall wheat complexions, short moustaches, sweet tongue, slim face.

If traced, he should be handed over to the nearest Police Station or information to that effect be sent to the Superintendent of Police, Karachi and Tatta Districts, Karachi, whose decision will be final in awarding the reward.

J. M. SLADEN,
Chief Secretary to
Government.
(4647)

G. I. P. RAILWAY
POONA-LONAVLA TRAIN SERVICES

The PUBLIC IS NOTIFIED that on and from 1st June 1943 two new shuttle trains viz., Nos. 466 Up and 467 Dn. will be introduced between Poona and Lonavla and will run to the following timings:—

467 Dn. H. M.				466 Up H. M.
13-15	Dep.	Lonavla	Arr.	12-56
13-23	Arr.	Malavli	Dep.	12-47
13-24	Dep.	„	Arr.	12-46
13-33	Arr.	Kamshet	Dep.	12-38
13-34	Dep.	„	Arr.	12-37
13-43	Arr.	Vadgaon	Dep.	12-27
13-44	Dep.	„	Arr.	12-26
13-50	Arr.	Talegaon	Dep.	12-21
13-52	Dep.	„	Arr.	12-20
13-55	Arr.	Dehu Road Siding	Dep.	12-17
13-56	Dep.	„	Arr.	12-16
14- 4	Arr.	Dehu Rd.	Dep.	12- 7
14- 5	Dep.	„	Arr.	12- 6
14-14	Arr.	Chinchvad	Dep.	11-58
14-15	Dep.	„	Arr.	11-57
14-25	Arr.	Kirkee	Dep.	11-47
14-26	Dep.	„	Arr.	11-46
14-31	Arr.	Sivajinagar	Dep.	11-41
14-32	Dep.	„	Arr.	11-40
14-40	Arr.	Poona	Dep.	11-35

(4638)

AUCTION SALES

BONA FIDE SALE.

AUCTION SALE of Rich Cutglass salad bowls. Vases, Decanters, Jugs, etc., Silverware and E. P. ware Burleigh Chinese and Tuscan Dinner Tea and Coffee Service, Elect. table fans, toasters and clocks. Westinghouse Radiogram 1 Retina Camera Color feter and other articles. Property of W. D. Johnson Esq., on Wednesday the 26th inst. at 2-30 p.m. (N.S.T.) at Mayo Road No. 6 Khatau Mansion 1st floor. On view from the 25th inst.

BONA FIDE SALE.

Under instructions from the Custodian of Enemy Property Messrs. BENNETT & CO., will sale by Public Auction on FRIDAY the 28th May, 1943, at 11-30 a.m. (N.S.T.) at their Rooms the following property of Messrs. Hansa, Lloyd Triestino and others vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property.

Writing tables, chairs, cupboard, counter, steel cupboard, large table, lot boxes and blocks, etc. On view from the 26th inst.

BENNETT & CO.

MENESSE & CO. will sell by Public Auction on THURSDAY, the 27th inst. at 2-30 p.m. near the Cotton Exchange Building Sewree Cotton Depot by order of the Insurance Office concerned 210 Bales damaged cotton Wun Veram (C. P. No. 1).

In accordance with Section 167 and 88 of the Sea Customs Act of 1878 under instructions from the Collector of Customs Bombay, MENESSE & CO. will sell by Public Auction on MONDAY, the 31st May 1943 at 3 P.M. (S.T.) at the New Custom House Ballard Road. Confiscated and Unclaimed arms and Ammunitions and miscellaneous Goods.

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SNEHPRABHA, SHAHU MODAK
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Will show you why the old order should yield to the new order.
The Artistes: PRITHVIRAJ, the newest glamour-girl SURAIYA, JAGDISH, K. N. SINGH, SWARNALATA, PRATIMA, SATISH, VATSALA
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City And Suburbs

TO-DAY

Hindu: Vaishakh Vad 5, 1999
Muslim: Jamadi-ul-Avval 19, 1362.
Parsi: Adar 22, 1312
Sunrise: 7-3 a.m., Sunset: 8-7 p.m.
Hightide: 2-44, 15-42.
Lowtide: 8-40, 21-58.

DAY'S ENGAGEMENTS

JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION: Under the auspices of the Journalists' Association of India, Mr. M. J. M. Sharma, Editor of the "Daily Gazette" Karachi, will deliver a lecture on "Sind and its Politics" at the premises of the Association, Prospect Chambers Annexe, Hornby Road at 6 p.m. The lecture is open only to members.

"CIVIL DEFENCE DAY": The 'E' Ward Civil Defence Committee has decided to observe a "Civil Defence Day" during the last week of this month. Fire-fighting and sports competitions will form part of the day's programme.

Volunteers of the Fire-Watching and Fire-Fighting parties who desire to take

CONTROL OF COTTON AND COTTON CLOTH

Seth Ram Krishna Dalmia, in the course of a statement to the press, observes:—

The control of cotton business and restrictions on floatation of new companies may have a temporary sympathetic effect but not a permanent one. The most pressing problem calling for urgent and immediate redress by the Government is the control of price of cloth and its production and strict measures prohibiting its export. The income of the poor has had no appreciable rise but the price of cloth has gone up by six to eight times.

"Cottage Hospitals"

The Director of Information, Bombay, writes:

Five municipal dispensaries, at Dhanduka (Ahmedabad District), Sangamner (Ahmednagar District), Dapoli (Ratnagiri District), Junnar (Poona District) and Sirsi (North Kanara District) are to be converted into "cottage hospitals".

These hospitals are expected to serve as a co-ordinating link between Government subsidised medical practitioners in the rural areas and the civil hospitals at District Headquarters. They will also take such cases from general practitioners in rural areas as cannot be treated at home and will pass on to the large hospitals at District Headquarters those cases which require special facilities for diagnosis and treatment.

The Government of Bombay will give grants-in-aid to the five municipalities, to cover the increased expenditure.

SIKHS AND FRONTIER MINISTRY

PESHAWAR, May 22.

"The Muslim League Ministry in the Frontier Province now seems to be a certainty. We have nothing to say whether it would be stable or not but we do want to convey to Sardar Ajit Singh that his decision to join the Muslim League Coalition Ministry here is not his personal concern. It is the concern of the entire Sikh community of the Province. Sardarji may not feel it but by co-operating with Sardar Aurangzeb Khan he is definitely damaging the sentiments of Khalsa Panth." This was the declaration given to the Press under the signatures of Sardar Pratapsingh, Sardar Bhagwan Singh, and 16 other prominent Sikhs of Peshawar.

The declaration challenges Ajit Singh and adds:—"If he is true to his electorate and is convinced that he is not betraying them we would ask him to resign his seat in the Assembly and contest it once again on the League Sikh Coalition issue. The result of the election will open the eyes of Ajit Singh and prove that the Sikhs of the Frontier do not want to co-operate with the Muslim League."

Frontier Ministry Personnel

PESHAWAR. The "United Press" learns that the fifth Minister of the Aurangzeb Cabinet has been selected. He is Raja Abdul Rehman Khan of Hazara who is likely to be in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Forests. It is further learnt that the swearing-in ceremony will take place on Tuesday morning (May 25). Sardar Aurangzeb Khan who had left for Nathiagali arrived in Peshawar yesterday.

CALCUTTA: The Chief Minister of Bengal, Sir Nazimuddin, broadcasting from Calcutta station of All-India Radio in its Tuniata Day programme said: "We are proud of Indian seamen 90 per cent. of whom are from Bengal. Actually 40 to 50 thousand Bengalis from Noakhali, Chittagong, Tippera and Dacca are on the high seas. Bengal has supplied men who keep the lifeline of the Allied nations going.—A. P.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET

BOMBAY, May 22.

On Friday the New York cotton market was irregular. Near months were bolstered by continued trade price fixing against Government textile awards while distant deliveries encountered long liquidation and hedge selling associated with the Commodity Credit Corporation stabilisation programme. Reports of serious crop damage of Arkansas and Oklahoma were more than offset by favourable conditions in other parts. At the opening July was 2 points down at 20.00 and declined to 19.98 which was the lowest. Later July improved to 20.03 and the market closed at a net decline of one to ten points. Spot cotton closed 2 points down at 21.94c per lb.

PRIVATE CABLES
N. Y. July highest 20.03+.01 12 a.m.
N. Y. July lowest 19.98—04 10-2 a.m.

NEW YORK COTTON.
New York, May 22.

July	20.09
October	19.82
December	19.68
Middling Spot	22.02

NEW ORLEANS COTTON.
New York, May 22.

July	20.38
October	20.11
December	19.99
Middling Spot	20.50



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